

"Joy in the Midst of Need"  
Philippians 4:14-20

God promises to:

Hear our prayers.	Isaiah 65:24
Preserve the church in the midst of persecution.	Matthew 16:18
Rewards us for being faithful.	Matthew 16:27
Never to withdraw His presence.	Matthew 28:20
Receive and help those who come to Him.	John 6:37
Send his son, Jesus Christ, back to earth some day.	John 14:3
Never leave us comfortless	John 14:18
Turn our tragedies into triumphs	Romans 8:28
Never to allow our sufferings and heartaches to become unbearable	II Corinthians 10:13
Never to give up on us when we make mistakes	Philippians 1:6
Give us qualities and abilities to accomplish his will	Philippians 2:13
Give wisdom and guidance to those who seek him	James 1:5
Forgive us our sins when we confess them	I John 1:9
Someday put an end to all evil and death	Revelation 21:4

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19

Principle: Behind every promise is a promise

How to have joy in the midst of your need:

1. The promise – I must be generous to others

"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

"Good will come to him who is generous and a righteous man will be remembered forever." Psalms 112:5, 6

"Give to others, and God will give to you. The measure you use for others is the one God will use for you." Luke 6:38

Principle: When you have a need – plant a seed.

Principle: Your giving determines what God can do with your life.

Four reasons why we don't give: Fear, ignorance, stinginess, selfishness.

"I will not sacrifice to the Lord a burnt offering that costs me nothing." II Samuel 24:24

Three reasons for being generous:

1. My giving is an encouragement to others
2. My giving is an investment in the future  
Principle: You can't take it with you – but you can send it on ahead.
3. My giving is a sacrifice to God

"The world will not be won to Christ on what we can conveniently spare." Bernard Ettinger

Principle: Giving is an act of worship that draws me closer to God.

Principle: Giving is a source of joy.

2. The promise – God will meet my needs

"People who are unwilling (not unable) to work should not be given handouts." II Thessalonians 3:10

"You ask for something and when you don't get it's because you're asking with the wrong motive. You just want to consume it on your desires." James 4:3

"Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give whatever he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." II Corinthians 9:6-8

Principle: Giving is a matter of willingness, not wealth.

"You are under a curse - your whole nation – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe (10%) into the storehouse (where you are going to church/being fed), that there may be food (that your needs might be met) in my house. "Test me in this," says the Lord almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe," says the Lord Almighty. Then all nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the Lord Almighty." Malachi 3:9-12